

USING GENERATORS SAFELY

Prevent injury with these simple steps



Portable generators are useful when temporary or remote electrical power is needed, like when the power goes out due to storms or you're out camping.

PREVENT CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING



- **Generators create high levels of deadly carbon monoxide gas** in their exhaust. Carbon monoxide cannot be seen or smelled.
- **Never use a generator in an enclosed area**, like your home, garage, shed, camper, tent, boat, or cabin.
- **Always run your generator outside**, at least 20 feet from your home, camper, tent, etc., with exhaust hoses pointing away from people and structures.
- **Install carbon monoxide detectors** on each floor of your home. Use battery-powered detectors when you are away from home and using any gas-powered tools.



PREVENT ELECTRICAL PROBLEMS

- **Never plug the generator into a wall outlet.** This is called “backfeeding” and can electrocute people.
- **Keep the generator dry.** Dry your hands before using a generator.
- **Use the correct extension cord**, one that is heavy-duty, specifically designed for outdoor use, and has a wattage rating that exceeds the total wattage of all devices plugged into it.
- **Make sure electrical cords are in good condition**, not frayed or crimped.



PREVENT FIRES

- **Never store generator fuel in your home** or near an ignition source.
- **Before refueling a generator**, turn it off and let it cool down.
- **Always follow manufacturer instructions.**



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
PUBLIC HEALTH TRACKING

<https://tracking.idph.iowa.gov> | April 2018 | publichealthtracking@idph.iowa.gov